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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 31, 2012, at 12 noon.

## Senate

MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 2012

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, from whom we come and to whom we belong and in whose service is our peace, may Your kingdom come. Use our lawmakers to do your will on Earth as it is done in Heaven. Create in them courageous hearts that will beat undaunted by fear, unconquered by adversity, and unstained by sin. Give them the wisdom to put themselves in others' places before judging them. Strengthen them to lift downcast, stricken lives.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, January 30, 2012.

### To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. COONS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 4:30 p.m. this afternoon. Senators will be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the STOCK Act. At 5:30 p.m. there will be a rollcall vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the STOCK Act.

### BIPARTISAN COOPERATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Americans believe Congress is broken, and it is no mystery why. Political divisions in this Chamber are so great they often prevent the Senate from performing even its most fundamental difficulties.

Divisions are so great they prevented this body from confirming Presidential nominees, which is a constitutional obligation we have. These days, it is no longer enough to be a qualified nominee. It is no longer enough to have bipartisan support. And in the case of judicial nominees, it is no longer enough to be reported unanimously out of the committee.

Last year, my Republican colleagues blocked or delayed scores—scores of outstanding nominees. Why? Because they want to defeat President Obama. They said so. That was their No. 1 goal. And it is he who made these nominations. So that is the No. 1 goal, to go after him any way they can. At the end of last year, Republicans refused to allow votes on 16 judicial nominees who were reported out of the committee unanimously—Democrats and Republicans.

Unfortunately, this year may bring more of the same. Already this year—the last few weeks—some Republicans have come to the floor and threatened to drag out the confirmation process for every nominee for the rest of the year. This Republican obstructionism is supposedly retribution for President Obama's recess appointment of Richard Cordray. No one questions his qualifications—no one. He was called upon by the President to head the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. If we have a qualified leader at the helm, this Bureau will be able to effectively protest things that are wrong and protect middle-class families from the greed and excess of big Wall Street banks. It will not impact smaller financial service firms that help Americans

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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